

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A flooring panel which provides underfloor drainage, the flooring panel comprising:

an upper member comprising rigid sheet flooring material;

a substantially rigid lower member attached to the upper member, the lower member comprising a continuous, water impervious sheet material having a plurality of projections in the form of knobs extending away from the upper member to support the upper member above an underlying surface, to protect the upper member from water and to permit free drainage of water about the projections and between the flooring panel and the underlying surface; and

at least one part of an interlocking assembly for interlocking an edge of the panel with an adjacent edge of another panel so as to prevent relative vertical movement therebetween, wherein the interlocking assembly is configured to interlock the edges of the panels via lateral movement of one panel with respect to the other.

2. (Original) A flooring panel according to claim 1, wherein the upper member is made from random wafer board.

3. (Original) A flooring panel according to claim 1, wherein the lower member is made from a plastics material.

4. (Original) A flooring panel according to claim 3, wherein the plastics material is polyethylene.

5. (Original) A flooring panel according to claim 2, wherein the lower member is made from a plastics material.

6. (Original) A flooring panel according to claim 5, wherein the plastics material is polyethylene.

7. (Original) A flooring panel according to claim 1, wherein the lower member is adhesively attached to the upper member.

8. (Original) A flooring panel according to claim 6, wherein the lower member is adhesively attached to the upper member.

9. (Previously Presented) A flooring panel according to claim 1, wherein the interlocking assembly comprises at least one tongue and at least one groove.

10. (Previously Presented) A flooring panel according to claim 1, wherein the interlocking assembly comprises at least one key and at least one groove.

11. (Previously Presented) A flooring panel which provides underfloor drainage, the flooring panel comprising:

an upper member comprising rigid sheet flooring material;

a substantially rigid lower member attached to the upper member, the lower member comprising a continuous, water impervious sheet material having a plurality of projections in the form of knobs extending away from the upper member to support the upper member above an underlying surface, to protect the upper member from water and to permit free drainage of water about the projections and between the flooring panel and the underlying surface; and

a tongue located on two adjacent edges of said upper member and a groove located on two adjacent edges of said upper member for connecting the panel to an adjacent panel having at least one corresponding tongue and at least one corresponding groove to prevent relative vertical movement therebetween.

12. (Previously Presented) A flooring panel which provides underfloor drainage, the flooring panel comprising:

an upper member comprising random wafer board;

a substantially rigid lower member attached to the upper member, the lower member comprising a continuous, water impervious sheet material having a plurality of projections in the form of knobs extending away from the upper member to support the upper member above an underlying surface, to protect the upper member from water and to permit free drainage of water about the projections and between the flooring panel and the underlying surface; and

said upper member having a tongue located on two adjacent edges and a groove located on two adjacent edges for connecting the panel to an adjacent panel comprising two corresponding tongues and two corresponding grooves to prevent relative vertical movement therebetween.

13. (Previously Presented) A plurality of flooring panels, comprising:
a first flooring panel and a second flooring panel,
wherein each of the first and second flooring panels is a flooring panel according to claim 1, and

wherein an edge of the first panel and an edge of the second panel are configured to be connected together so as to prevent relative vertical movement therebetween.

14. (Previously Presented) A plurality of flooring panels, comprising:
a first flooring panel comprising
a first upper member comprising rigid sheet flooring material,
a substantially rigid first lower member attached to the first upper member, the first lower member comprising a continuous, water impervious sheet material having a plurality of projections in the form of knobs extending away from the first upper member to support the first upper member above an underlying surface, to protect the first upper member from water and to permit free drainage of water about the projections and between the first flooring panel and the underlying surface; and

a second flooring panel comprising

a second upper member comprising rigid sheet flooring material,

a substantially rigid second lower member attached to the second upper member, the second lower member comprising a continuous, water impervious sheet material having a plurality of projections in the form of knobs extending away from the second upper member to support the second upper member above the underlying surface, to protect the second upper member from water and to permit free drainage of water about the projections and between the second flooring panel and the underlying surface,

wherein an edge of the first panel and an edge of the second panel are configured to be connected together so as to prevent relative vertical movement therebetween.

15. (Previously Presented) A plurality of flooring panels according to claim 14, wherein the first and second upper members are made from random wafer board.

16. (Previously Presented) A plurality of flooring panels according to claim 14, wherein the first and second lower members are made from plastics material.

17. (Previously Presented) A plurality of flooring panels according to claim 14, wherein the edge of the first panel comprises a groove and the edge of the second panel comprises a tongue.

18. (Previously Presented) A plurality of flooring panels according to claim 17, wherein the groove has an opening facing in a lateral direction.

19. (Previously Presented) A plurality of flooring panels according to claim 17, wherein the first upper member comprises the groove and the second upper member comprises the tongue.

20. (Previously Presented) A plurality of flooring panels according to claim 14, wherein the edge of the first panel comprises a groove and the edge of the second panel comprises a groove.

21. (Previously Presented) A plurality of flooring panels according to claim 20, further comprising at least one key.

22. (Previously Presented) A plurality of flooring panels according to claim 20, wherein the first upper member comprises the groove of the first panel and the second upper member comprises the groove of the second panel.

23. (Previously Presented) A plurality of flooring panels according to claim 20, wherein each of the groove of the first panel and the groove of the second panel has an opening extending in a lateral direction.

24. (Previously Presented) A flooring panel which provides underfloor drainage, the flooring panel comprising:

an upper member comprising rigid sheet flooring material; and

a substantially rigid lower member attached to the upper member, the lower member comprising a continuous, water impervious sheet material having a plurality of projections in the form of knobs extending away from the upper member to support the upper member above an underlying surface, to protect the upper member from water and to permit free drainage of water about the projections and between the flooring panel and the underlying surface,

wherein an edge of the panel comprises a groove configured to connect an edge of the panel to an edge of another panel so as to prevent relative vertical movement therebetween, and

wherein the groove has an opening facing in a lateral direction.

25. (Previously Presented) A flooring panel according to claim 24, wherein the upper member comprises the groove.

26. (Previously Presented) A flooring panel which provides underfloor drainage, the flooring panel comprising:

an upper member comprising rigid sheet flooring material;

a substantially rigid lower member adhesively attached to the upper member, the lower member comprising a continuous, water impervious sheet material having a plurality of projections in the form of knobs extending away from the upper member to support the upper member above an underlying surface, to protect the upper member from water and to permit free drainage of water about the projections and between the flooring panel and the underlying surface,

wherein the lower member comprises plastics material; and

a tongue located on two adjacent edges of said upper member and a groove located on two adjacent edges of said upper member for connecting the panel to an adjacent panel having at least one corresponding tongue and at least one corresponding groove.

27. (Previously Presented) A flooring panel according to claim 1, wherein the rigid sheet flooring material comprises wood.

28. (Previously Presented) A flooring panel according to claim 11, wherein the rigid sheet flooring material comprises wood.

29. (Previously Presented) A plurality of flooring panels according to claim 14, wherein the rigid sheet flooring material of the first upper member

comprises wood and the rigid sheet flooring material of the second upper member comprises wood.

30. (Previously Presented) A plurality of flooring panels according to claim 14, wherein the first lower member is adhesively attached to the first upper member, and wherein the second lower member is adhesively attached to the second upper member.

31. (Previously Presented) A flooring panel according to claim 24, wherein the rigid sheet flooring material comprises wood.

32. (Previously Presented) A flooring panel according to claim 26, wherein the rigid sheet flooring material comprises wood.

33. (Previously Presented) A flooring panel which provides underfloor drainage, the flooring panel comprising:

an upper member comprising rigid sheet flooring material;

a substantially rigid lower member attached to the upper member, the lower member comprising a continuous, water impervious sheet material having a plurality of projections extending away from the upper member to support the upper member above an underlying surface, to protect the upper member from water and to permit free drainage of water about the projections and between the flooring panel and the underlying surface; and

at least one part of an interlocking assembly for interlocking an edge of the panel with an adjacent edge of another panel so as to prevent relative vertical movement therebetween, wherein the interlocking assembly is configured to interlock the edges of the panels via lateral movement of one panel with respect to the other.

34. (Previously Presented) A flooring panel according to claim 33, wherein the lower member is made from a plastics material.

35. (Previously Presented) A flooring panel according to claim 33, wherein the lower member is adhesively attached to the upper member.

36. (Previously Presented) A flooring panel according to claim 33, wherein the interlocking assembly comprises at least one tongue and at least one groove.

37. (Previously Presented) A flooring panel according to claim 33, wherein the interlocking assembly comprises at least one key and at least one groove.

38. (Previously Presented) A flooring panel according to claim 33, wherein the rigid sheet flooring material comprises wood.

39. (Previously Presented) A flooring panel which provides underfloor drainage, the flooring panel comprising:

an upper member comprising rigid sheet flooring material;

a substantially rigid lower member attached to the upper member, the lower member comprising a continuous, water impervious sheet material having a plurality of projections extending away from the upper member to support the upper member above an underlying surface, to protect the upper member from water and to permit free drainage of water about the projections and between the flooring panel and the underlying surface; and

a tongue located on two adjacent edges of said upper member and a groove located on two adjacent edges of said upper member for connecting the panel to an adjacent panel having at least one corresponding tongue and at least one corresponding groove to prevent relative vertical movement therebetween.

40. (Previously Presented) A flooring panel according to claim 39, wherein the lower member is adhesively attached to the upper member and the lower member comprises plastics material.

41. (Previously Presented) A flooring panel according to claim 40, wherein the rigid sheet flooring material comprises wood.

42. (Previously Presented) A plurality of flooring panels, comprising:
a first flooring panel comprising

a first upper member comprising rigid sheet flooring material,
a substantially rigid first lower member attached to the first upper member, the first lower member comprising a continuous, water impervious sheet material having a plurality of projections extending away from the first upper member to support the first upper member above an underlying surface, to protect the first upper member from water and to permit free drainage of water about the projections and between the first flooring panel and the underlying surface; and

a second flooring panel comprising
a second upper member comprising rigid sheet flooring material,
a substantially rigid second lower member attached to the second upper member, the second lower member comprising a continuous, water impervious sheet material having a plurality of projections extending away from the second upper member to support the second upper member above the underlying surface, to protect the second upper member from water and to permit free drainage of water about the projections and between the second flooring panel and the underlying surface,

wherein an edge of the first panel and an edge of the second panel are configured to be connected together so as to prevent relative vertical movement therebetween.

43. (Previously Presented) A plurality of flooring panels according to claim 42, wherein the first and second lower members are made from plastics material.

44. (Previously Presented) A plurality of flooring panels according to claim 42, wherein the edge of the first panel comprises a groove and the edge of the second panel comprises a tongue.

45. (Previously Presented) A plurality of flooring panels according to claim 44, wherein the groove has an opening facing in a lateral direction.

46. (Previously Presented) A plurality of flooring panels according to claim 44, wherein the first upper member comprises the groove and the second upper member comprises the tongue.

47. (Previously Presented) A plurality of flooring panels according to claim 42, wherein the edge of the first panel comprises a groove and the edge of the second panel comprises a groove.

48. (Previously Presented) A plurality of flooring panels according to claim 47, further comprising at least one key.

49. (Previously Presented) A plurality of flooring panels according to claim 47, wherein the first upper member comprises the groove of the first panel and the second upper member comprises the groove of the second panel.

50. (Previously Presented) A plurality of flooring panels according to claim 47, wherein each of the groove of the first panel and the groove of the second panel has an opening extending in a lateral direction.

51. (Previously Presented) A plurality of flooring panels according to claim 42, wherein the rigid sheet flooring material of the first upper member comprises wood and the rigid sheet flooring material of the second upper member comprises wood.

52. (Previously Presented) A plurality of flooring panels according to claim 42, wherein the first lower member is adhesively attached to the first upper member, and wherein the second lower member is adhesively attached to the second upper member.

53. (Previously Presented) A flooring panel which provides underfloor drainage, the flooring panel comprising:

an upper member comprising rigid sheet flooring material; and

a substantially rigid lower member attached to the upper member, the lower member comprising a continuous, water impervious sheet material having

a plurality of projections extending away from the upper member to support the upper member above an underlying surface, to protect the upper member from water and to permit free drainage of water about the projections and between the flooring panel and the underlying surface,

wherein an edge of the panel comprises a groove configured to connect an edge of the panel to an edge of another panel so as to prevent relative vertical movement therebetween, and

wherein the groove has an opening facing in a lateral direction.

54. (Previously Presented) A flooring panel according to claim 53, wherein the upper member comprises the groove.

55. (Previously Presented) A flooring panel according to claim 53, wherein the rigid sheet flooring material comprises wood.

56. (New) A flooring panel according to claim 1, wherein the panel has a square shape.

57. (New) A flooring panel according to claim 56, wherein a size of the panel is four feet by four feet.

58. (New) A flooring panel according to claim 56, wherein the lower member has a square shape.

59. (New) A method of installing flooring panels, comprising:
positioning an entire first flooring panel and an entire second flooring panel onto an underlying surface,
wherein each of the first and second flooring panels is a flooring panel according to claim 1; and
connecting the first and second flooring panels together.

60. (New) A method according to claim 59, wherein the positioning comprises moving the entire first flooring panel onto the underlying surface and moving the entire second flooring panel onto the underlying surface.

61. (New) A method according to claim 59, wherein the connecting comprises moving the entire first flooring panel with respect to the entire second flooring panel.

62. (New) A plurality of flooring panels according to claim 14, wherein each of the first and second panels has a square shape.

63. (New) A plurality of flooring panels according to claim 62, wherein a size of each of the first and second panels is four feet by four feet.

64. (New) A plurality of flooring panels according to claim 63, wherein each of the first lower member and the second lower member has a square shape.

65. (New) A method of installing a plurality of flooring panels according to claim 14, the method comprising:

positioning the entire first flooring panel and the entire second flooring panel onto an underlying surface; and

connecting the first and second flooring panels together.

66. (New) A method according to claim 65, wherein the positioning comprises moving the entire first flooring panel onto the underlying surface and moving the entire second flooring panel onto the underlying surface.

67. (New) A method according to claim 65, wherein the connecting comprises moving the entire first flooring panel with respect to the entire second flooring panel.

68. (New) A flooring panel according to claim 33, wherein the panel has a square shape.

69. (New) A flooring panel according to claim 68, wherein a size of the panel is four feet by four feet.

70. (New) A flooring panel according to claim 68, wherein the lower member has a square shape.

71. (New) A method of installing flooring panels, comprising:
positioning an entire first flooring panel and an entire second flooring panel onto an underlying surface,
wherein each of the first and second flooring panels is a flooring panel according to claim 33; and
connecting the first and second flooring panels together.

72. (New) A method according to claim 71, wherein the positioning comprises moving the entire first flooring panel onto the underlying surface and moving the entire second flooring panel onto the underlying surface.

73. (New) A method according to claim 71, wherein the connecting comprises moving the entire first flooring panel with respect to the entire second flooring panel.

74. (New) A plurality of flooring panels according to claim 42, wherein each of the first and second panels has a square shape.

75. (New) A plurality of flooring panels according to claim 74, wherein a size of each of the first and second panels is four feet by four feet.

76. (New) A plurality of flooring panels according to claim 74, wherein each of the first lower member and the second lower member has a square shape.

77. (New) A method of installing a plurality of flooring panels according to claim 42, the method comprising:

positioning the entire first flooring panel and the entire second flooring panel onto an underlying surface; and

connecting the first and second flooring panels together.

78. (New) A method according to claim 77, wherein the positioning comprises moving the entire first flooring panel onto the underlying surface and moving the entire second flooring panel onto the underlying surface.

79. (New) A method according to claim 77, wherein the connecting comprises moving the entire first flooring panel with respect to the entire second flooring panel.